



Volume XXXII, No. 6

Shevat-Adar, 5740

February, 1980

## Jack Ostrovsky Named Executive Director of P.A.S.

Mr. Jack Ostrovsky assumes the position of Executive Director of Park Avenue Synagogue February 1. He comes to the synagogue with a background of administrative and managerial experience in both military and synagogue life. Retiring from the service in 1975 with the rank of Colonel, he served as a Jewish chaplain in the United States Army for 21 years. He has been Executive Director of a large synagogue, community center and day school in Brooklyn for the past 3 years.

Mr. Ostrovsky has supervised as many as 1200 personnel, consisting of chaplains, officers, soldiers and Civil Service civilians for extended periods of time. He has also administered the chaplaincy logistics, supply and finance system in Vietnam as the Chief Chaplain of the Logistical Command and has served in the capacity of Director, Supervisor and Administrator in the service for more than 10 years.

Mr. Ostrovsky graduated from Brooklyn College and received his M.A. degree in Semitics from Columbia University. He was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America where he also earned the degree of Master of Hebrew Literature.

He was selected by the Army to attend the Command and General Staff College, graduated in 1962, and then served on the faculty of the U.S. Army Chaplain School for 5 years, the youngest instructor in the history of the school.

He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for combat in Vietnam, two Legion of Merit Medals, presented by the President of the United States, the only chaplain to receive such medals, and two Army Commendations Medals as well as various unit citations.

In 1970 he was officially designated "Chaplain of the Year".

Mr. Ostrovsky is married and has two daughters and two grandchildren. We welcome him and his wife, Malka, to the Park Avenue Synagogue family.

# Park Avenue Synagogue Bulletin

Daily Minyan Needs YOU!  
5:45 P.M.  
Appleman Chapel

## PATRONS CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

As knowledge of the ever-increasing need for a special kind of philanthropy on the part of the members of Park Avenue Synagogue increases, the roster of names of those who have joined Patrons Club 5740 grows.

Abraham I. Sherr, President of the Congregation and Chairman of the Patrons Club, aided by Barry Alperin and Ira Lee, members of the Board of Trustees, announces that since the last issue of the BULLETIN, five more congregants and one "arm" of the synagogue have joined the Patrons Club as Patrons, one member has become a Sponsor and eleven members have joined the ranks as Donors.

### Everyone Asked To Use New Entrance For Synagogue And School

Beginning in February, admission to the sanctuary, the Appleman Chapel, all classrooms and to any other area of the synagogue building and the Milton Steinberg House will be through the main doors of the synagogue. Until now admission, during weekdays, was through the doors of the Milton Steinberg House. However, the construction schedule for the new building requires the closing of the entrance to the Milton Steinberg House.

A guard will be on duty, in the synagogue lobby, to assist visitors. The students in our Early Childhood Center, Elementary School and High School have been briefed, by their teachers, on the route they are to take to reach their classrooms.

This is a minor inconvenience for the sake of the greater good — the construction of the new building!

### ADDENDA

We apologize to the Zinn Family, Ms. Eve Zinn and Mr. Keith Zinn, for omitting their names from the list of new members which appeared in the last issue of the BULLETIN. Our welcome to them into the Park Avenue Synagogue family is nonetheless warm and hearty!

COME ONE! COME ALL!!  
PURIM CARNIVAL  
SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 2  
LEMBERG AUDITORIUM  
11 A.M. — 1 P.M.

The aim of Patrons Club is to close the gap between revenue and operating expense. The concept of a Patrons Club substitutes for an annual Yom Kippur Appeal, an appeal designed for this very same purpose by many synagogues throughout the country.

There are three categories of giving: a \$1000 contribution designates one a Patron, a \$500 contribution, or more, a Sponsor and a contribution of \$250, or more, a Donor.

Those members who have become members of the Patrons Club in January are:

#### Patrons:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Altman  
Mr. and Mrs. Club  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Friedman  
Mr. and Mrs. James Heller  
Mr. and Mrs. Morton Hyman  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Raticoff

#### Sponsor:

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Fromer

#### Donors:

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Cohen  
Ms. Estelle Cohen  
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Druss  
Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Duberstein  
Mr. and Mrs. Max Halpert  
Dr. and Mrs. Herman Helpern  
Mr. Aaron Landis  
Mr. and Mrs. James Leibman  
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Milgrim  
Dr. and Mrs. Sigmund Siegel  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley H. Steinberg

If you wish to become a member of Patrons Club, please mail your check, made out to Park Avenue Synagogue, to Patrons Club, c/o Mr. Abraham I. Sherr, Park Avenue Synagogue, 50 East 87 St., New York, N.Y. 10028.

Park Avenue Synagogue  
*Agudat Yesharim*  
 50 East 87 Street,  
 New York, N.Y. 10028  
 369-2600

Affiliated with the Jewish Theological Seminary and the United Synagogue of America

Dr. Judah Nadich . . . . . Rabbi  
 Harlan J. Wechsler . . . . . Asst. Rabbi  
 David Lefkowitz . . . . . Cantor  
 Mark Kushner . . . . . Asst. Cantor  
 George M. Shapiro . Chairman of Board  
 Abraham I. Sherr . . . . . President  
 Jeffrey A. Lowin . . . . . Secretary  
 Jack Ostrovsky . . . . . Executive Director

Riverside Memorial Chapel  
 369-2600

Funeral Directors

Park Avenue Synagogue Bulletin  
 published from September to June  
 Editor . . . . . Joann Rosoff

## Tu Bishvat

Though February is a month when in New York the trees are bare and shivering with cold, nonetheless it brings the holiday of Tu Bishvat, the New Year of the Trees, on February 2. Looking around, it is hard to think of this being the New Year of the Trees. Glancing at the trees in Central Park in February, it doesn't look like as if it will be such a good year!

But, whether Jews are in New York, Chicago, Buenos Aires, Melbourne or Helsinki, it is still the New Year of the Trees. For the trees that are remembered here are the trees of Jerusalem and there, the sap is beginning to flow.

How odd our holidays seem. How often during Sukkot it rains every single day and then, finally, at the end of the Festival, we have the prayer for rain. Rain? People regularly say: Who needs more rain? But in the Land of Israel the rain is just beginning to fall.

Jews live in two places at once. Few others can say that. We live, day in and day out, where we work and where our homes are. But there is a part of our mind and of our spiritual selves that lives in Israel, that made Aliyah many years ago, and that lives according to the cycles of the year in the Holy Land.

The seasons are beginning to change. The rains are completing their yearly contribution to the fertility of God's land. And, in the hills of Jerusalem, as in the Galilee, the trees are beginning to grow. Though few of us will be there to see it in person, Tu Bishvat turns our attention to Israel — as travel folders normally do. It turns our attention to what is going on in our other home.

The Land of Israel is about to bloom, and we Jews take time to think and to rejoice in that.

— Harlan J. Wechsler

## Schedule of Religious Services

Friday evening, February 1 . . . . . 5:45 p.m.

### FAMILY SERVICE

Saturday morning, February 2 . . . . . 9:30 a.m.

**Bat Mitzvah of Leslie Lieber  
 daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Lieber**

Friday night, February 8 . . . . . 8:30 p.m.

**Rabbi Wechsler will speak on  
 "SONG, PRAYER AND THE LAND"  
 A Service Devoted to Israeli Contributions to Liturgical Music**

Saturday morning, February 9 . . . . . 9:30 a.m.

**Bar Mitzvah of Bradford Bernstein  
 son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Bernstein**

Friday night, February 15 . . . . . 8:30 p.m.

### "ASK THE RABBI"

**Rabbi Nadich will answer questions mailed, telephoned or  
 asked directly at the Oneg Shabbat**

Saturday morning, February 16 . . . . . 9:30 a.m.

**Rachel Rosenzweig, Israeli Jew, and Rushdi Sadilla, Israeli Arab  
 will speak on "PARTNERSHIP"**

Friday night, February 22 . . . . . 8:30 p.m.

**Rabbi Wechsler will speak on  
 "IS GAMBLING PERMISSIBLE?"**

Saturday morning, February 23 . . . . . 9:30 a.m.

**Rabbi Nadich will teach**

Friday night, February 29 . . . . . 8:30 p.m.

**Rabbi Nadich will speak on  
 "ANATOMY OF A JOKE"**

**The service will include Purim Music**

**Bat Mitzvah of Debbie Felberbaum  
 daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Felberbaum**

Rabbi Judah Nadich and Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler will preach and conduct the services together with Cantor David J. Lefkowitz and the synagogue choir with Mr. Neil Robinson at the organ.

## Israel And Jewish Music

The great essayist, Ahad Ha-am, was an important advocate of a Jewish Homeland in the early days of Zionism. He envisioned the new land as the spiritual and cultural center of influence for all of world Jewry. Although the modern state of Israel has an extremely high cultural level, indeed, and has produced an admirable number of internationally recognized artists in many fields, her contribution to Jewish culture has been rather small.

It is interesting that practically the entire significant contribution of Israel to serious Jewish music has come through commissions from America! While this might appear disturbing on the one hand,

I believe it is actually quite natural. How long did American Jewry rely on the Jewish leadership of Europe for guidance, inspiration and creativity? In actuality it took half a century for the transplanted immigrants of Eastern Europe to pass through various cycles: from a period of longing for the ways of the old country, through the struggling period of acculturation and assimilation, into what finally became a positive, effective and creative American Jewish life. We should not be surprised, therefore, if Israel has not yet reached its potential in producing a new Jewish culture.

I believe it is more important to note, however, that the small strides which have been achieved thus far are not at all insigni-

## Milton Steinberg Archive Established By Sons

*Editor's note: The BULLETIN is pleased to print this letter from Jonathan and David Steinberg to the congregation.*

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of Father's death, we are establishing a Milton Steinberg Archive at the American Jewish Historical Society, located on the Brandeis campus in Waltham, Massachusetts. Both of us believe that Father's memory should be preserved by creating a place where future scholars can study the life and work of Milton Steinberg. In this way we believe it is possible to convert kaddish into hallel.

We have already been in touch with many friends, colleagues, and associates inviting them to donate their papers and memorabilia. We are encouraged and enthusiastic about the response to date. We take this opportunity through the gracious generosity of Rabbi Nadich to reach out to any of you who may have correspondence, photographs, or other memorabilia which would help document Father's years at the Park Avenue Synagogue.

May we request that you write or send the material to:

Dr. Bernard Wax  
American Jewish Historical Society  
2 Thornton Road  
Waltham, MA 02254

Both of us join in sending affectionate greetings and heartfelt appreciation.

—Jonathan & David Steinberg

## Israeli Liturgical Music Highlights Special Service

A musical presentation by the High School Youth Choir and Instrumental Ensemble, under the direction of Ms. Shelly Katsch, will serve as a highlight to a special Friday night service, February 8 at 8:30 P.M.

The Choir and Ensemble will be heard in a selection "Vayekhulu" by Israeli composer Gil Aldema, arranged by the late Shlomo Kaplan, father of our Director of Choral Activities, Abraham Kaplan.

This special service, prepared by Rabbi Wechsler and Cantor Lefkowitz, illustrates the contribution of Israeli composers to the liturgy of the American synagogue. (See *Cantor Lefkowitz' article* on page 2, column 2.)

The Synagogue Choir, under the direction of Mr. Neil Robinson, will join Cantor Lefkowitz in the presentation of music by Paul Ben-Haim, Yehezkel Braun, Leib Glantz and others. Rabbi Wechsler's talk will be on Israeli music.

## REGISTRATION FOR CAMP RAMAH NOW OPEN FOR SUMMER 1980

Registration for the Summer 1980 season at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires is now open. Those parents who are interested in learning more about this unique summer experience for their children should contact the School Office at TE 1-8686 or Mrs. Pat Davidson at AT 9-7771.

Camp Ramah in the Berkshires is one of 7 Ramah camps in the United States and Canada. It is operated by the Camp Ramah in the Berkshires Committee of the National Ramah Commission. The camp is under the educational supervision of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Rabbi Jerome Abrams is the Camp Director.

Located in Wingdale, New York, Camp Ramah in the Berkshires accommodates over 450 boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 17.

Each summer Camp Ramah assembles a staff of counselors selected from among Jewish college students. These young men and women have evidenced their Jewish concerns by continuing their own Hebrew studies at the college level while simultaneously pursuing a full program of academic and extra-curricular activities. To complement the American staff members, qualified Israelis serve on the camp staff. Specialists and teachers are recruited for their competence as well as their Hebraic backgrounds. Ramah emphasizes high quality instruction in areas such as swimming, boating, dance, drama, sports and special interest areas as well as in Hebrew and Judaica.

Each summer students from the Park Avenue Synagogue Religious School attend Camp Ramah. Camp Ramah is the complete Jewish summer experience.

## High School Parents To Meet February 6

### Blacks and Jews: A Study of How to Study a Contemporary and Controversial Issue.

Parents of students in the High School are invited to an evening curriculum presentation and discussion led by Peter Geffen and Ross Brann, Wednesday, February 6 in the home of Joann and Sidney Rosoff, 17 East 89 St., beginning at 8 P.M.

The evening will offer a unique sample of the workings of the high school faculty in thinking through an issue for presentation to the student body. Parents will have an opportunity to experience the educational process used in the school in the development of the three part curriculum on Blacks and Jews which was prepared during the early months of the Fall.

Dessert and coffee will be served. Please let the High School Office know that you are coming.

## Gillman and Zelnick To Teach Provocative Courses in Feb.

What are Jews thinking about today?

Dr. Neil Gillman will devote 5 sessions to a consideration of books and articles which are part of the current scene. His course, *Issues In Contemporary Jewish Thought*, begins Wednesday, February 13 at 8 P.M. This course provides an excellent opportunity to confront the current agenda of American Jewish life: the role of Israel, women, anti-semitism, to name just three.

Back in Egypt again....

It may seem like a long time since Jews were in Egypt and every year, at Passover, we are reminded of those days. Today, Jewish contacts between Egypt and Israel are again at a new high. The peace treaty signed last year is but the beginning of a reconsideration of Jewish relations with Egyptians as they exist today.

On Tuesday, February 26 at 8 P.M., Mr. Larry Zelnick will begin the first of 4 sessions on *Biblical Israel and Egypt: Context and Cross Currents*. This course will study the ties between Egyptians and Jews which go back to ancient times. How did the Jews get to Egypt? Does the Bible give us an accurate account of what ancient Egypt was like? Is the Hebrew a cousin of the Egyptian we know from hieroglyphics? Etc. Come for a rare treat!

## Sisterhood To Show Film On Jews Of India

Sisterhood invites the members of the congregation and their friends to view the film, *About the Jews of India*, at its next Open Meeting, Tuesday, February 19 at 1 P.M. in the Lemberg Auditorium.

This film was written and directed by Dr. Johanna Spector, Seminary Professor of Musicology at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and Director of the JTS Department of Ethnomusicology. Dr. Spector has devoted herself to recording on tape and film the ethnic music and folkways of Jews of non-Western backgrounds.

*About the Jews of India* is a record of a vanishing community. It offers a fascinating look at the culture of another Jewish community, a reminder of the many forms Judaism took as Jews tried to maintain themselves Jewishly over the centuries.

A social hour will follow the viewing of the film at which time refreshments will be served.

Mrs. Richard Rudell is Chairman for the day; Mrs. Charles Beller is Program Chairman; Mrs. Jacob Applebaum is President of Sisterhood.

## SISTERHOOD ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

## Discover The Shooting Stars

The Park Avenue Synagogue Shooting Stars Basketball Team was born last year when Peter Geffen, Principal of the High School, received a challenge which he could not refuse.

### THE P.A.S. SHOOTING STARS



Back Row (left to right): Phil Gelman, Jacob Ribicoff, Michael Weinrauch, Larry Kraus, Walter Charnizon, Steven Price, Richard Finkel, Lisa Zagury.

Front Row (left to right): Aaron Finkel, Captain, Susie Weinrauch, Patty Goldstick, Jon Marks.

Under the organizational abilities of Jimmy Stulman, the Shooting Stars began to practice at the Jewish Center on West 86th St. The day of the big game arrived. At the team meeting, the secret weapon was unveiled, *UNIFORMS!* The team was psyched to win, but it wasn't to be. Defeat, however, was not taken lightly. The team wanted revenge.

The fall of 1979 brought changes. A new team was put together. A new coach, in the body of Aaron Finkel, was named. And even new uniforms were bought in order to show that this Shooting Stars team would not be like the old one. A challenge was sent to the Great Neck team for a rematch. The P.A.S. team worked and worked; each play was learned to the letter. Victory was in sight!

The game played at the Wagner Jr. High School on East 76th St. was amazing. Both teams played superbly in the first quarter, with P.A.S. falling behind by only two baskets. This, however, was as close as the Shooting Stars would come to victory. At the start of the second quarter everything seemed to fall apart for the Stars. After scoring 18 points in the first quarter, the Stars were only able to score 22 more points throughout the remaining three quarters. Meanwhile, Great Neck pulled out to a comfortable lead for the remainder of the game.

But do not despair. The Shooting Stars are not dead yet. The day will come when this writer will be able to write: "Today the Shooting Stars won!!"

—Muzzy Rosenblatt

## SCHOOL NEWS

A note from Lillian Helpern and Vicki Wimpfheimer, Co-Chairmen of the School Board:

"We plan to start the 15th year of our Nursery-Kindergarten program in the Fall of 1980 in our new school building. In addition to our present program, we plan to add a new group for children under three! If you have any questions, or, if you wish further information, please contact our Director, Mrs. Edith Paul, mornings, at TE 1-8686."

Mrs. Rahel Bloch, Principal of the Elementary School, reports:

"Congratulations go to the students of the Hey Grade who conducted the Family Service, Friday, January 4.

Marc Yonah Berman	Stephen Simha Kraus
Kim Rivkah Cherovsky	Alexander Avi Leventhal
Melissa Miriam Gelman	Amy Sarah Rifkind
Matthew Moshe Kleiner	David Russekoff

The students remembered the Service in all its details from previous years and recalled the melodies. They rehearsed on the previous day.

It is good to know that Hazzanim (male and female) are available from among the Religious School students at any time.

The next Friday evening Family Service will take place on Friday, February 1 at 5:45 P.M., which also happens to be the eve of Tu Bishvat, Jewish Arbor Day. The special feature will be presented by the Bet Classes. A kiddush, prepared by Parents Association, will follow the service."

### TU BISHVAT IS HERE!

Tu Bishvat — Jewish Arbor Day — falls on Shabbat, February 2. It is a time when the 'love of the land' is fondly recalled, Israel's flora and fauna and exports studied, the importance of its agricultural basis re-emphasized. For tree certificates 'from sand to land' (\$3 a tree) please call the Religious School Office, TE 1-8686. Trees may be planted 'in honor of' and/or 'in memory of.'

### Sunday Study Breakfast February 3 at 10:15 A.M.

#### "What DO Jews Believe?"

Parents, and others interested in exploring, with Rabbi Wechsler, this question are cordially invited to the second of 3 Sunday Study Breakfast sessions, sponsored by Parents Association.

Beginning at 10:15 A.M. in the Library, the discussion will focus on communicating Jewish beliefs to our children. Questions such as "What does it mean to believe in God?" and "Why do good people suffer?" are questions difficult to answer whether an adult or a child.

Babysitting for parents with young children will be provided courtesy of the High School, and danish and coffee will be served.

## Israel Summer 1979

*Editor's note: Emily Saltzman is a student in the High School. Last summer she was a member of the Ramah Seminar in Israel program. We wish to share with you excerpts of some of her impressions of her summer travel experience.*

I consider myself very fortunate. Not only have I been given the chance to visit other countries, but I also have been given the chance to experience them.

.....This [past] summer in Israel surpassed my previous experiences in France, Portugal, England and Austria. I feel I got to know the country and the people well. Although I had read about Israel in the newspaper and have had years of Hebrew School, I realized I knew nothing about Israelis and their lifestyles. I also knew the trip would be a good chance for me to learn about myself, and it was. The girl who left Tel Aviv on August 12 was a different girl from the one who arrived there on July 2.

.....I soon learned that language was almost the only thing Israelis have in common. The term "Israeli" means an inhabitant of Israel. After that definitions vary. There are Jewish, Arab, American, European, African and Asian Israelis. Our group was fortunate to meet with all these Israelis and discuss with them their opinions of their position in the country.

Many Israelis are very casual about the observance of their Hebrew heritage. On the other hand the Hassidim are very strict in their observance.....

We visited an English priest who lived in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem. It was fascinating to me to meet with a member of a small, overlooked minority in Israel. We also visited Mea Shearim, the area in which the orthodox Jews live which looked to me like the pictures of the ghettos of pre-World War II Europe.

.....The Arab population of Israel was a complete surprise to me....On one field trip to Bethlehem, we interviewed Arabs about the P.L.O., Prime Minister Begin, and President Carter as well as their opinion of their position in the country. On the one hand, I was frightened by the ferocity of their criticisms and yet, on the other hand, I was excited that they spoke so freely to us.....A few weeks later we visited a Christian Arab who lived in Nazareth. He stressed that he did not agree with the P.L.O. His concern was for equal representation for the Arabs in Israel.

I never knew that there was a difference of opinion among the Arabs themselves. I found it interesting that so many conflicting groups could coexist. It made me realize how little I knew about Americans living in the U.S. I'm sure that if a foreigner interviewed ten different Americans he would come away with the same conclusion.

*Cont'd in next column*

**Israel Summer 1979***Cont'd from previous page*

....Not only was I unaware of the different kinds of people who live in Israel, but I was also unaware of the different lifestyles these people live. For one thing I did not realize that there are different types of Kibbutzim: agricultural, industrial, religious and secular.

I was introduced to lifestyles completely unfamiliar to me. I spent one weekend with a friend of the family in his home in the desert. The area is similar to an American suburb and I realized that there was a part of Israeli society which is interested in assimilating Western styles, literature and fashions. My experience which followed this particular weekend was on a Moroccan Moshav which only heightened my realization of the difference between the family with whom I stayed on the Moshav and the family I had visited the weekend before. In living and working with the Moroccan family I learned about their forced adaptation, communal living and Moroccan traditions.

....We visited an Arab village one evening and met the children of the village and ate dinner with a family. This was a unique experience for me. The villagers were observing a religious period in which they fasted all day and only ate at night. I was shocked to learn that the entire fourteen member family lived in the same small house.

....In Jerusalem we were exposed to both the poverty and the grandeur of the city. It was astonishing to see such miserable destitution so close to such ancient beauty and modern prosperity.

....Security is a concern of everyone who lives in Israel. Soldiers are everywhere. All handbags are searched before you can enter any public building. I was amazed to find that Israelis have calmly accepted this way of life which filled me with so much fear.

....I learned more about myself in my six weeks in Israel than in my sixteen previous years. I stretched myself to limits I never thought I could reach. I hiked seven miles in the hot sun but felt great afterwards. I fasted on one holiday and really felt the meaning of it. I tasted new foods when necessary and went without food when necessary. I never expected to eat dinner with Arabs or collect eggs from chickens. I spoke Hebrew, a difficult language. I was really proud of my accomplishments. I learned patience when things ran late. I learned courage when I travelled from the desert to Jerusalem alone. As I was exposed to so many other types of people I found I better understood myself. I learned to adapt to less than luxurious surroundings. The fact that the country is so beautiful made everything seem practically painless. And when I boarded the plane on August 12 I was sad to leave the country but extremely grateful for all it had given me.

—Emily Saltzman

**Russian-Jewish Arts Festival  
Sponsored by Men's Club**

Men's Club invites the members of the congregation to attend a Russian-Jewish Arts Festival, Tuesday, February 26, beginning at 8:15 P.M. in the Lemberg Auditorium.

The Hermitage Performing Arts Company, a group formed by Russian singers, dancers and musicians, will present an evening's entertainment of Russian-Jewish songs, dance and music. Ballerina Zina Yevtikova, a Gold Medalist of the Kurov and Bolshoi Ballet Companies, and Tenor Moshe Chizerb, formerly a member of the Bolshoi Theater, are featured.

There will be a nominal admission charge. Seating will be on a first come, first served basis. Plan now to attend this most unusual program.

**New Choral Group Formed;  
Meets Thursday Evenings**

Among the new offerings of the Park Avenue Synagogue Institute of Adult Jewish Studies this term is a Choral Group which meets on Thursday evenings from 8 P.M. to 10 P.M. The chorus, under the direction of Joshua Greene, will be singing unusual music of Jewish classicists as well as some rarely encountered works of Purcell and Haydn.

If you wish to join the Choral Group, please call Rabbi Wechsler's secretary at 369-2600.

**Jewish Music***Cont'd from page 2, column 3*

ficant! Of considerable merit, for example, is the "Kabbalat Shabbat" of composer Paul Ben-Haim, commissioned by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in 1965. Of special importance to us are two complete Friday night Conservative services by a host of outstanding Israeli composers, created during the 1960's and 1970's through the Cantors Assembly and the magnanimous efforts of Hazzan Saul Meisels, one of the most forward-thinking leaders of the American cantorate. This is all in addition to contributions of American Israelis such as Gershon Kingsley, Nahum Amir, Abraham Kaplan and many others whose liturgical music has previously been brought to light at the Park Avenue Synagogue.

It is this positive aspect of the Israeli contribution to Jewish Liturgical Music which we shall explore in a special presentation of Friday evening, February 8. It promises to be an educational opportunity you will not want to miss!

—David Lefkowitz

**Israeli Arab and Jew To Speak  
Shabbat Morning, Feb. 16**

At the Saturday morning service on February 16 Rushdi Fadila and Rachel Rosenzweig will speak on "Partnership" — a strategy for coping with conflicts.

Rachel Rosenzweig was born in Germany and studied at the universities of Heidelberg and Tübingen. Under a grant from the German government she studied at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem and in 1964 emigrated to Israel. At present she teaches at the Teachers Training Institute near Tel Aviv and lives in a moshav. She is the mother of three children and is married to Raphael Rosenzweig, the son of Franz Rosenzweig, the famous Jewish philosopher. In 1977, together with Jewish and Arab friends, she helped found "Partnership," an organization dedicated to "creating conditions of partnership between Jews and Arabs in Israel". She has written and edited books and articles in German, Hebrew and English.

Rushdi Fadila was born in an Arab village in central Israel to a Moslem Arab family which has lived there for seven generations. He has studied at Bar Ilan University and at Beit Berl College. He has been active for the past twenty years in community development work within the Arab sector of Israel. He is a founding member of "Partnership." He is married and has five children.

Plan now to attend services on this Shabbat, specially.

**WE TAKE PRIDE IN:**

Peter Feinberg, who has been appointed co-chairman of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America's new building fund for the construction of a new library and other facilities on the Seminary campus.

Anita and Stanley Gluck, who were the guests of honor at the annual dinner of the S/A/R Academy.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Mr. and Mrs. A. Joshua Balgley, upon the birth of their daughter, Sarah Miriam; to Mr. and Mrs. Irving Wexton, upon the birth of their granddaughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Max L. Shulman, upon the birth of their first grandson, Jonathan Claude Koster.

**CONDOLENCES**

Park Avenue Synagogue extends heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved of our congregation and to their families:

Mr. Samuel Gunther, upon the death of his mother, Lillian.

Mrs. Andre Sassoon, upon the death of her father, Abraham Friedman.

## Is Cremation Within Jewish Tradition?

A question frequently asked of rabbis is whether cremation is permissible in Jewish law.

It should be stated at the outset that burial in the ground is the traditional Jewish procedure. This practice goes back to Biblical times. Burning of the body was not unknown in antiquity. On the contrary, it was common among ancient peoples, but it was never prevalent among the Hebrews. The Torah prescribes burning as the kind of death penalty to be imposed for a number of offenses. Cremation was considered to be a humiliation inflicted on criminals. In the books of Joshua and Kings the burning of the corpse was added to the death penalty. From this it may be concluded that the burning of the human body was looked upon with horror by the Jews of the Biblical period. The Talmud contains no suggestion that cremation was ever practiced by Jews. The Mishnah states that "every death which is accompanied by burning is looked upon as idolatry". The fact that King Saul's body was burned is said to have been the cause of a three year famine during the time of his successor, David. The Shulhan Arukh contains the statement, "Burial in the earth is a positive commandment", a position assumed earlier by the Talmud and Maimonides.

In modern times Jewish authorities in *halakhah*, in Jewish law, have affirmed the traditional Jewish posture of opposition to cremation. In Jewish theology there is no sharp antithesis between body and soul as is true in other religions. The soul, to be sure, is of greater purity. But the body also partakes of sanctity since it is the vessel of the spirit. Hence the body is not to be destroyed by a direct act resulting in its immediate dissolution. Of course, in time burial of the body also results in its disintegration. But that is the result of nature, not of human action.

The traditional Jewish position is reasserted in *A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice* by Rabbi Isaac Klein, published by The Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1979 — an excellent book, highly recommended. "The Jewish way of burial has been to place the body in the earth. Hence, cremation is frowned upon ... The Law Committee of The Rabbinical Assembly has ruled that cremation is not permitted. When it is done by a family in disregard of Jewish practice, a rabbi may officiate only at the service in the funeral parlor; the ashes may be buried in a Jewish cemetery and appropriate prayers may be said, but not by a rabbi, lest his participation be interpreted as approval."

— Judah Nadich

## Contributions

### Building Fund

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bennet, in honor of their fifty-second wedding anniversary.  
 Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Bloom.  
 Dr. and Mrs. Simon Dack.  
 Dr. and Mrs. Alvin M. Donnenfeld.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Max Elkon.  
 Mrs. Harold L. Fierman.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fuhrman.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Goodman, in honor of the 80th birthday of Mr. Henry Asner.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Solomon E. Green.  
 Mrs. Frederick Wm. Greenfield.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul S. Hall.  
 Mr. Eugene G. Halpern.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Leon Jolson.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Irving Kapner.  
 Mrs. Albert Kurzman, in memory of her husband.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Leonard M. Leiman.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Bernard A. Leventhal.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Lieber and Family, in honor of their daughter, Leslie, whose Bat Mitzvah will take place on Feb. 2nd.  
 Mr. Joseph J. Marcheso, in memory of Shirley Golding.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Mehl.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Moroze.  
 Mr. Alexander Neuwirth.  
 Hon. and Mrs. Simon H. Rifkind.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sadowsky.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Alfred L. Schroeder, in memory of her mother, Clara Elharrar.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schussler.  
 Mr. and Mrs. George Schwartz, in honor of their grandson starting religious school.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Seligman.  
 Mrs. Maxwell Shapiro.  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Sherman.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Louis Singer.  
 Mrs. Ralph Sokoloff.  
 Max D. Spitzer, Esq.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Stangel.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Eric Stiebel.  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Strauss.  
 Susan Wasserman.  
 Mr. Morris Zinneman.

### Synagogue Offerings

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Asnes, in honor of the 80th birthday of Mrs. Mildred Goodman.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beller, in honor of Helen Wimpfheimer.  
 Mr. Allan Blumstein, in memory of his grandmother, Esther Englander.  
 Mr. Irving L. Braverman, in memory of his father, Morris Braverman.  
 Hilda and Edwin Davidson, in honor of the wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Heller.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Edwin W. Davidson, in honor of Bea Klenert.  
 Hilda and Ed Davidson, in honor of Helen Wimpfheimer.

All the Davidsons, in honor of the wedding anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. Seymour Wimpfheimer.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Howard Dragutsky, in memory of Richard Loewengart.  
 Mr. Conrad B. Duberstein, in memory of his mother, Esther Duberstein.  
 Mr. Daniel Edricks, in memory of his sister, Audrey F. Edricks.  
 Mrs. Bernard Feinberg, in memory of her father.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Fox, in memory of Harry B. Eisen.  
 Mrs. Marta Fried, in memory of Dr. Oskar Klinger.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Noah Friedland, in memory of their parents, Simon and Freyda Friedland and Hertzel and Chaika Friedland.  
 Mr. Frederick M. Friedman, in memory of his father, Abraham M. Friedman.  
 Mr. Robert Gal, in memory of his father, Charles Gal.  
 Dr. Sidney Gellman, in memory of his father, Mr. Irving Gellman.  
 Mrs. Belle F. Green, in memory of her brother, Leo Federman.  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Grossberg, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Amy.  
 Dr. and Mrs. Leslie H. Hammel, in memory of Mr. Newton S. Arnold.  
 Mr. Leonardo Hellenberg, in honor of Dr. Brian Pollack.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Leon I. Heller, in honor of their thirty-second wedding anniversary.  
 Dr. and Mrs. Robert Katz, in memory of her father, Mr. Irving Greenberg.  
 Mrs. Bea Klenert, in honor of Helen Wimpfheimer.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Harry Krieger, in honor of their wedding anniversary.  
 Mrs. Martin Kurzner, in memory of her husband, Dr. Martin Kurzner.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Herman G. Lane, in honor of the birth of their grandson, Jeffrey.  
 Mr. Hugo Lowy, in memory of his father, Mandl, and brother, Aron.  
 Mrs. Hanna M. Lytle, in honor of her birthday.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Saul Mehlman, in memory of his mother, Jennie Mehlman, and her mother, Anna Melnikoff.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Sam Meltzer, in memory of Louis Eliazer Gordon.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Philip Mittenthal, in honor of Helen Wimpfheimer.  
 Mr. Frank Moroze, in memory of his mother, Ethel Moroze.  
 Miss Pamela Morrow.  
 Dr. Richard S. Muchnick.  
 Mr. Edward Munves, in memory of Frances Munves.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Perlman, in memory of her mother, Sacha Moskalik.  
 Hon. Hyman J. Reit, in memory of his wife, Rae Reit.  
 Mrs. Paul Rollin, in memory of her husband.

Contributions: *Cont'd on page 8, column 1*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS – FEBRUARY, 1980

(Clip and Save for Handy Reference)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5:45 P.M. Family Friday Night Service 7 P.M. Friday Night Dinner —Singles— 8y Reservation Only Light Candles 4:55 P.M.	2 9:30 A.M. Shabbat Service Bat Mitzvah Leslie Lieber 4 P.M. Seudah Shlishit for Elementary School (Lemberg Aud.) 5 P.M. Talmud Study with Rabbi Wechsler followed by Service and Havdalah (Chapel)
3 10:15 A.M. Sunday Study Breakfast "What Do Jews Believe?" Discussion with Rabbi Wechsler	4 8 P.M. Hebrew Mrs. Yael Feldman (Room 401)	5 1 P.M. Intermediate Hebrew Mrs. Finkel (Room 402)	6 11 A.M. – 5 P.M. Gift Shop Open 1 P.M. Advanced Hebrew Mrs. Finkel (Room 402) 8 P.M. Adult Education Dr. Neil Gillman (Room 203) 8 P.M. High School Parents Meeting at home of Joann and Sidney Rosoff 17 East 89 St	7 10:30 A.M. Intermediate Hebrew Mrs. Finkel (Room 402) 1 P.M. Beginners Hebrew Mrs. Finkel (Room 402) 3 P.M. Retirees Group (Lemberg Aud.) 8 P.M. Adult Education Mr. Ross Brann (Room 203) 8 P.M. Choral Group (Lounge)	8 8:30 P.M. Friday Night Service featuring Israeli Liturgical Music Light Candles 5:04 P.M.	9 9:30 A.M. Shabbat Service Bar Mitzvah Bradford Bernstein 5 P.M. Talmud Study with Rabbi Wechsler followed by Service and Havdalah (Chapel)
10	11 8 P.M. Hebrew Mrs. Yael Feldman (Room 401) 8:30 P.M. School Board (Room 300/1)	12 12 Noon Sisterhood Board (Room 300/1) 1 P.M. Intermediate Hebrew Mrs. Finkel (Room 402) 7:30 P.M. Class Mothers 8:30 P.M. Parents Association Board Meeting (Room 403) 8:15 P.M. Men's Club Board (Room 300/1)	13 11 A.M. – 5 P.M. Gift Shop Open 1 P.M. Advanced Hebrew Mrs. Finkel (Room 402) 8 P.M. Adult Education: "Issues in Contemporary Jewish Thought" Dr. Neil Gillman (Room 203)	14 10:30 A.M. Intermediate Hebrew Mrs. Finkel (Room 402) 1 P.M. Beginners Hebrew Mrs. Finkel (Room 402) 3 P.M. Retirees Group (Lemberg Aud.) 8 P.M. Adult Education Mr. Ross Brann (Room 203) 8 P.M. Choral Group (Lounge)	15 8:30 P.M. Friday Night Service "Ask the Rabbi" Rabbi Nadich Light Candles 5:12 P.M.	16 9:30 A.M. Shabbat Service Special Feature Discussion of "Partnership" (see page 5) 4 P.M. Third Sabbath, Third Meal with Rabbi Wechsler (Lounge) followed by Talmud Study and Service and Havdalah (Chapel)
17	18 8 P.M. Hebrew Mrs. Yael Feldman (Room 401)	19 1 P.M. Intermediate Hebrew Mrs. Finkel (Room 402) 1 P.M. Sisterhood Open Meeting Film: About the Jews of India (Lemberg Aud.) 8:15 P.M. Mr. and Mrs. Club Board (Room 300/1)	20 11 A.M. – 5 P.M. Gift Shop Open 1 P.M. Advanced Hebrew Mrs. Finkel (Room 402) 8 P.M. Adult Education Dr. Neil Gillman (Room 203)	21 1:30 A.M. Intermediate Hebrew Mrs. Finkel (Room 402) 1 P.M. Beginners Hebrew Mrs. Finkel (Room 402) 3 P.M. Retirees Group (Lemberg Aud.) 8 P.M. Adult Education Mr. Ross Brann (Room 203) 8 P.M. Choral Group (Lounge) 8:15 P.M. Board of Trustees Advisory Council (Room 300/1)	22 8:30 P.M. Friday Night Service Rabbi Wechsler Light Candles 5:21 P.M.	23 9:30 A.M. Shabbat Service 5 P.M. Talmud Study with Rabbi Wechsler followed by Service and Havdalah (Chapel)
24 Watch for Announcement of a SPECIAL EVENT on this day sponsored by MR. AND MRS. CLUB	25 8 P.M. Hebrew Mrs. Yael Feldman (Room 401) 8:15 P.M. Women's Evening Group Board (Room 300/1)	26 1 P.M. Intermediate Hebrew Mrs. Finkel (Room 402) 8 P.M. Adult Education: "Biblical Israel and Egypt: Context and Cross Currents" Mr. Larry Zelnick (Room 203) 8:15 P.M. Men's Club Open Meeting Russian-Jewish Arts Festival (Lemberg Aud.)	27 11 A.M. – 5 P.M. Gift Shop Open 1 P.M. Advanced Hebrew Mrs. Finkel (Room 402) 8 P.M. Adult Education Dr. Neil Gillman (Room 203)	28 10:30 A.M. Intermediate Hebrew Mrs. Finkel (Room 402) 3 P.M. Retirees Group (Lemberg Aud.) 8 P.M. Choral Group (Lounge)	29 8:30 P.M. Friday Night Service Bat Mitzvah Debbie Felberbaum Light Candles 5:29 P.M.	

**Contributions***Cont'd from page 6, column 3.*

Mr. Arnold S. Rostan, in memory of his mother, Gustava W. Rostan.  
 Mrs. Herman B. Schoenberg, in memory of her husband, Dr. Herman B. Schoenberg.  
 Mrs. Henrietta Silverman, in memory of her father, Mr. David Braunstein.  
 Sisterhood, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. David Friedland.  
 Sisterhood, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Max Klein.  
 Mrs. Florence Spiegel, in honor of wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Heller.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Stangel, in honor of wedding anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. Herman G. Halpern.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Stangel, in honor of wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Howard Katz.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Stangel, in honor of wedding anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. Jacob Oberman.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Stangel, in honor of wedding anniversary of their children Dr. and Mrs. John J. Stangel.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Stangel, in honor of wedding anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. Seymour Wimpfheimer.  
 Mr. Jack Stein.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Tenenbaum, in memory of mother of Mrs. Aimee Eden.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Weill, in memory of Charles Weill.

**Hilda And Edwin Davidson Fund**

Dr. Franklin Z. Davidson.

**Flower Fund**

Dr. Roslyn A. Haber.

**Library Fund**

Dr. Theodore and Suzanne Goldstein.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Kummel, in memory of Mr. Rubin Herman.

**Prayer Book Fund**

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Friedel, for speedy recovery of Mr. Harold Friedman.  
 Dr. Roslyn A. Haber.

**David J. Puttermann Music Center**

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Botwinick.  
 Ms. Susan Price Carr.  
 Mrs. Sol Fineman.  
 Mrs. Lester Goldman, in memory of her husband, Dr. Lester Goldman.  
 Mrs. Frederick Wm. Greenfield.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Max Halpert.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Jankoff.  
 Mr. and Mrs. I.B. Oseas

**Religious School**

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene G. Halpern.

**Murray Rothenberg Scholarship Fund**

Mrs. Herman W. Bernstein, in memory of her parents, George and Gertrude Kaskel.

Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Feuerburgh, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fine.

Mrs. Albert Kurzman, in honor of the recovery of Dr. Joseph Feuerburgh.

Mrs. Hilda Rosenblum, in memory of her sister, Mrs. Rose Sindel Bloom.

Mrs. Henry Rosenblum, in honor of Mrs. Rosalie Friedman being named Kalah Maseret for Simhat Torah.

Mrs. Henry Rosenblum, in memory of her husband.

**Scholarship Fund**

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Frank.

**Welfare Fund**

Ms. Ethel Miller Keenan.

**REMEMBER THE BUILDING FUND.**

# Park Avenue Synagogue Bulletin

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